

also important components in any smart growth plan.

The bill I am introducing today—the “High Performance Schools Act of 2001”—takes the concept of “whole buildings” and puts it into the context of our schools. My bill would establish a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce “high performance” school buildings. It would provide block grants to State offices of energy that would then be allocated as grants to school districts for building design and technical assistance. These grants would be available to school districts that are faced with rising elementary and secondary school enrollments, that can’t afford to make major investments in construction or renovation, and that commit to work with the state agencies to produce school facilities that incorporate a “high performance” building approach.

Now is the time for improving the way we build our schools. One reason why—the current energy crisis is taking its toll on school districts across the country. Many of them are being forced to pay higher heating bills with funds that had been budgeted for textbooks or new teacher salaries. We must do all we can to ensure that scarce education resources are used primarily for education purposes, not to keep our children warm.

Another reason why the timing for this initiative is critical—this country is currently experiencing a dramatic increase in student enrollment due to the “baby boom echo,” the children of the baby boom generation. During the 20 years from 1989 to 2009, this Nation is being asked to educate an additional 8.3 million children. At the same time, over 70 percent of our Nation’s schools were built before 1960 and are now in need of major repairs.

Visiting schools in the 2nd Congressional district in Colorado, I have seen firsthand the spaces in which our children are learning and growing. Many districts can’t afford sorely needed remodeling or construction of new schools, while others are scrambling to address severe overcrowding issues. And we aren’t alone: School enrollment in Colorado increased by 70,000 students in the last five years. While new schools open at or above capacity, enrollment is projected to grow in Colorado by 120,000 in the next decade.

Clearly, there’s an urgent need for school construction—in Colorado and in every State across the country. Thousands of communities nationwide are even now in the process of building new schools and renovating existing ones. But in drawing up construction plans, schools often focus on short-term construction costs instead of longterm, life-cycle savings. My bill would help ensure that school districts have the tools and assistance they need to make good building decisions.

High performance schools are a win for energy savings and a win for the environment, but best of all, they are also a win for student performance. A growing number of studies link student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions. A study from Mississippi State University, for example, showed that in schools in North Carolina, Texas and Nevada, variables such as natural light and climate control played a role in improved test scores, higher morale and fewer discipline problems. And in one of the most rigorous studies of its kind, a 1999 report commissioned by Pacific Gas & Electric found that students who took their lessons in classrooms

with more natural light scored as much as 25 percent higher on standardized tests than other students in the same school district.

We wouldn’t dream of putting only manual typewriters in new school buildings—we would install today’s computer technology. Nor should we build yesterday’s “energy inefficient,” non-sustainable, and less effective schools. Our kids are our country’s future, and they should have the best school facilities, especially if they will cost less and benefit us all in other ways.

In short, we have an enormous opportunity to build a new generation of sustainable schools, schools that incorporate the best of today’s designs and technologies and as a result provide better learning environments for our children, cost less to operate, and help protect our local and global environment. The High Performance Schools Act would start us on the road to achieving these goals. I look forward to working with Reps. BOEHLERT, MILLER, BONIOR, ETHERIDGE, and HONDA and other Members of the House to move forward with this important initiative.

THE HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2001

The High Performance Schools Act would enable our school districts to build today’s schools with today’s designs and technologies, producing school buildings that take advantage of advanced energy conservation technologies, daylighting, and renewable energy. Not only has this “whole building” approach been demonstrated to improve student performance, but such buildings also cost less to operate and help protect our local and global environment.

CONTEXT

Fully 25 percent of the energy used in today’s schools is wasted, costing schools some \$1.5 billion every year. Ending this waste could pay for the entire careers of 70 additional teachers in each of our congressional districts. These savings could be especially significant at a time when there is a clear need for more teachers.

There is also a clear need for school construction. Students of the “echo boom” generation—the children of the baby boomers—are reaching school age even while class sizes are being reduced. At the same time, studies show that over 70 percent of our nation’s schools were built before 1960 and are now in need of major repairs. School construction and modernization earned an “F” from the American Society of Civil Engineers in its 1998 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure. Many districts can’t afford sorely needed remodeling or construction of new schools, while others are scrambling to address severe overcrowding issues.

HOW IT WOULD WORK

The High Performance Schools Act of 2001 would help give school districts the tools and assistance they need to make good building choices. The bill would establish a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce “high performance” school buildings. Funds would be directed to school districts through state offices of energy for building design and technical assistance. These grants would be available to school districts that are faced with rising elementary and secondary school enrollments, that lack the resources to make major infrastructural investments, and that commit to work with the state agencies to produce school facilities that incorporate a “high performance” building approach. Some grants would also be available to facilitate private and public financing, promote the use of energy service companies, work with school administrations, students,

and communities, and coordinate public benefit programs.

TRIBUTE TO JERALD T. MAHSHIE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is truly my distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana’s hidden treasures, Jerald T. Mahshie, of Schererville, Indiana. Jerry is one of the most dedicated, distinguished and creative citizens of Indiana’s First Congressional District.

For the past 3½ years, Jerry has been the Director of Food and Beverage at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana. While Jerry has been a resident of the First Congressional District for only a short time, Northwest Indiana has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication he has displayed to both its citizens and communities, as well as his employer.

During his tenure at the Radisson Hotel, Jerry’s consummate professionalism and attention to detail enabled the facility to become one of the premier meeting and dining locations in the First Congressional District.

When I think of Jerry, the first image that comes to my mind is not his successful professional career, but his extraordinary leadership and care for others. Whenever a project has needed a leader or an issue has needed to be addressed, Jerry has stepped forward to accept the challenge. Unfortunately, Northwest Indiana will be losing this hidden treasure, as Jerry has accepted a position in the Indiana’s capitol, Indianapolis.

Jerry is truly a remarkable man. His hard work has earned him a number of accomplishments and awards. Such achievements include: Member of the American Academy of Chefs, President of the American Culinary Federation Chefs of Northwest Indiana, Certified Executive Chef, 1999 Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau Hospitality and Professional of the Year. In addition to his devotion to his job, Jerry finds time to serve his community. He is a past member of the Hammond Area Career Center Advisory Board and the Ivy Tech Gary Campus Advisory Board, as well as the Chairman for the 2001 Taste of Northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Jerry Mahshie for his remarkable accomplishments, enduring service, and the unforgettable effect he has had on the people of Northwest Indiana. We will surely miss him. May the future continue to hold great things for this outstanding professional.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE PATSY MINK OF HAWAII

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, March is Women’s History Month, a time to reflect upon and honor the contributions of women that